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The Life and Times of Thomas Smith (1745-1809). By BURTON ALVA KONKLE. (Philadelphia: Campion and Company. 1904. Pp. xi, 303.)

ALTHOUGH the period covered by this biography was one of the most important and stirring in the political and constitutional history of Pennsylvania, it is only within recent years that it has attracted the especial attention of historical students. The most recent of these studies, the work under consideration, true to its title presents not only an excellent biography of Thomas Smith, but also a careful survey of the political and judicial history of Pennsylvania during his times.

Thomas Smith was born in Scotland, as were several of the friends and judicial associates of his adopted land, notably James Wilson, and Judges Brackenridge and Addison of the state bench. He was a half-brother of William Smith, the distinguished first provost of the University of Pennsylvania, then called the College of Philadelphia. In his appreciative introduction to this volume, Hampton L. Carson truly says, "The brothers became in a very real sense, though working in different fields, builders of the Commonwealth". Provost Smith, while Thomas was still but a lad in Scotland, had become famous on both sides of the Atlantic not only by reason of his educational position, but also through his political pamphlets, written during the French and Indian War, condemning the rule of the Quakers and their failure to provide for the defense of the province. The younger brother came to Pennsylvania in 1768, and, apparently through the good offices of his influential brother, he was soon appointed a deputy surveyor for a district west of the Susquehanna. For five years he continued surveying for the government, meanwhile studying law and being admitted to practice. He very soon "absorbed a large part of the government of Bedford county", holding at one time the office of prothonotary, clerk, recorder, and deputy register, as well as being a member of the bench of judges of this county.

With the coming on of the Revolution, Smith took an active part on the side of the patriots, holding various military and political offices. He was a colonel of militia, and deputy quartermaster-general, and successively a member of the provincial assembly, of the convention that formed the new state constitution, of the State Assembly (1776-1779), and of the Continental Congress (1780-1782). Then for nine years he practiced his profession and became a leading land lawyer, attending more courts than any other lawyer in his state, traveling on horseback upwards of three thousand miles annually. In 1791 he was appointed president judge of one of the district courts, and three years later was promoted to the supreme court, a position which he held until his death in 1809. Smith established the reputation of possessing "a larger and more accurate knowledge of land law than any of his associates".

The chapters covering the years of Smith's political career are the most interesting, as Mr. Konkle presents various phases of the prolonged contest between the friends and the opponents of the Constitution of 1776,

Smith being numbered among the latter. The strife between parties became so intense that politics entered into all the affairs of the day. Of the various contemporaries of Smith appearing in these pages — many of whom were of national fame — perhaps the most remarkable character was George Bryan, one of his political opponents, whose career is most sympathetically presented. As the leader of the radical popular party, he was the real author and steadfast defender of the Constitution of 1776, and largely directed the government under it. He was the first vice-president of the state, and later as chairman of twenty-seven out of thirty-nine committees of the assembly he presented a most remarkable instance of one-man power, more openly exhibited than is the custom of the modern political "boss". Bryan's chief claim for remembrance is due to his authorship of the emancipation law of 1780. Shortly after its enactment he was unanimously elected to the supreme court, where he remained for life. He did not, however, altogether give up his activity in politics, and is credited with being the author of the letters against the Constitution signed by "Centinel".

In addition to the discussion of the political history of the period, the work contains a valuable study of the origin and development of the state judiciary, and presents a very realistic picture of Pennsylvania of a century and more ago, through its descriptions of the life both on the frontier and in the city, and by its characterization of the leading public men. These are based chiefly upon contemporary accounts. The work is a decided contribution to the history of the period. It might well have included a fuller account of the political contests over the College and the Bank, and of the work of the Council of Censors, as well as the struggle over the adoption of the Federal Constitution. These subjects, however, have been in part covered by other writers, and were not intimately connected with the career of Thomas Smith. The only error noted is the statement on page 191 that Congress was sitting at Annapolis in 1787.

The volume is handsomely printed and is embellished with over forty illustrations comprising a notable series of maps, portraits, and views.

HERMAN V. AMES.

Napoleon. A History of the Art of War, from the Beginning of the French Revolution to the End of the Eighteenth Century, with a Detailed Account of the Wars of the French Revolution. In four volumes. Volumes I and II. By Lieutenant-Colonel THEODORE AYRAULT DODGE, U. S. A. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1904. Pp. xx, 620; ix, 562.)

It was only eleven years ago that Lévy declared in his *Napoléon intime* that the true history of Napoleon had yet to be written, but in that time immense strides have been made in the right direction. Professor Sloane's *Life of Napoleon Bonaparte* supplied, among many other details,